Selfridge Field,
Building #1005, (Central Heating Plant) (Old Heating Plant)
C Street west of Doolittle Drive
~~Harrison Township~~, Mt. Clemens Vicinity
Macomb County
Michigan

HAER No. MI-116-KK

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
GREAT LAKES SYSTEMS OFFICE
1709 JACKSON STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102-2571

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

SELFRIDGE FIELD HAER No. MI-116-KK
BUILDING #1005 (CENTRAL HEATING PLANT)
(Old Heating Plant)

I. INTRODUCTION

Location:	South of North Perimeter Road, east of North-South Ramp Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mt. Clemens vicinity, Macomb County, Michigan
Quad/UTM:	U.S.G.S. New Haven Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 17.349880.4720940
Date of Construction:	1950 (modified 1959)
Present Owner:	Air National Guard 3500 Fetchet Avenue Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland 20762
Present Use:	Vacant
Significance:	The NORAD district occupies distinct complex at Selfridge that was self contained and isolated from the rest of the base for functional and security reasons. It consists of utilitarian structures numbered in the #1000 series erected in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Building #1005 was erected to provide heat to this Cold War defense installation. While in a state of disrepair, Building #1005 retains most of their structural integrity and is a utilitarian building whose role was essential in the operation of the district. But the significance of the building is best defined as a contributing structure to the entire NORAD installation. As a regional command and control center for NORAD, responsible for protection of the Great Lakes region, the NORAD district was of exceptional importance in national defense strategy and is unique in Michigan.
Historian:	William E. Rutter, Midwest Environmental Consultants, May, 1996

II. HISTORY

The southern bays of Building #1005 were erected in 1950 from plans provided by Holabird and Root and Burgee of Chicago for the Department of the Army, Office of the Chief of Engineering, Military Construction-Engineering Division, to serve as the steam heat plant for the NORAD facilities.[1] In 1959 the building was greatly enlarged through a large boiler room addition to the north elevation of the existing plant. The facility upgrade and expansion in 1959-1960 was constructed from designs provided to the Detroit District Corps of Engineers by Harley, Ellington and Day, architects and engineers, of Detroit.[2]

III. DESCRIPTION

The original building was a single story rectangular plan measuring 43 feet 4 inches by 54 feet composed of an eastern Boiler Room 32 feet 8 inches wide and 18 feet ten inches tall, and a 20-foot 8 inch wide 13 feet 4 inch tall coal shed. A 5 foot diameter smoke stack base was positioned adjacent to the

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[1]Original construction plans on file, Selfridge Base Museum and Base Civil Engineers Office

[2]Original construction plans on file, Selfridge Base Museum and Civil Engineers Office

north elevation of the Boiler Room. The 1959 addition is a 23 foot high, 34 foot 8 inch by 47 foot 4 inch unit that extends from the north elevation of the plant. Unlike the flat roof of the original building, the addition, which housed additional boilers, is shielded by a very low pitch gabled roof. The building components are constructed of reinforced concrete structural framing with concrete block walls. The roof consists of five ply built up roofing with steel flashing and the building rests on a poured concrete slab. All fenestration displays cast concrete lintels and sills and original windows displayed steel frames.

The north elevation presents a masonry wall pierced by an off center double steel door. The east elevation is composed of a 23 foot tall boiler room whose two bays are defined by large paired steel windows with louvered transom voids. This unit is flanked to the south by the original boiler room, four 18 foot 10 inch tall bays defined by steel mesh enframed window voids. The rear (south) elevation lacks fenestration and consists of two bays, a 13'4" tall unit flanked on the west by the 18 foot 10 inch tall unit joined by a steel coupling southward to the brick smoke stack. The brick is laid in standard bond. The western elevation consists of the boiler room unit that is pierced by a steel louvered vent near the concrete fascia flanked to the south by concrete frame

four bays displaying wood frame shiplap-sheathed curtain walls.

Today the interior remains virtually unchanged form the original. The interior of the original boiler room was predominantly open functional space containing three boilers and a boiler feed pump, although a small room in the northeast corner provided toilet facilities. The added boiler room to the north contained a double boiler and fly ash collectors. The coal shed to the west provided open, unimpeded storage space. The two north boilers were manufactured by the International Boiler Works Company of East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania attached to an Auburn Hydraulic Stoker from the Auburn Foundry Stoker Division in Auburn, Indiana. The two southern boilers, both serviced by stokers from the Canton Stoker Corporation, Canton, Ohio, are manufactured by the Kewanee Boiler Corporation, Kewanee, Wisconsin and by the Farrar and Trefts Corporation, Buffalo, New York.

IV. BIBLIOGRAPHY

A. BOOKS

Anonymous, Brief History of Selfridge Air Force Base, 1917-1960, unpublished ms., Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, 1960.

_____, Guide and Directory, Selfridge Air Force Base, Selfridge Air Force Base, Michigan, 1960.

Nigro, Louis, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, An Unofficial History, unpublished ms., Public Information Office, Selfridge ANG Base, Michigan, 1977.

B. PLANS

Copy of construction drawing, dated February 3, 1950, Holabird, Root and Burgee Architects-Engineers, Chicago, in possession of Selfridge Base Museum, Mt. Clemens, Michigan. Architectural elevations, Sheet 2 of 12.

Copy of construction drawing, dated October 30, 1951, Holabird, Root and Burgee Architects-Engineers, Chicago, in possession of Selfridge Base Museum, Mt. Clemens, Michigan. Addition of Boiler, Electrical.

Copy of construction drawing, dated December 17, 1959, Harley, Ellington and Day Architects-Engineers, Detroit, in possession of Selfridge Base Museum, Mt. Clemens, Michigan. Plan, Sections, Elevations, Sheet ? OF 8.

C. INTERVIEWS

Colonel Robert Stone (Ret.), Curator, Selfridge Base Museum, October 13, 1995.

Eric Reeve, Selfridge Environmental Management, October 12, 1995.